

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 9, 18 and 29 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 7, 15, 19-28 and 32-34 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending and canceling the claims as set forth above, claims 7, 13, 15, 19-28 and 30-34 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 9, 15, 22-27 and 32-34. By way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claim 7 has been amended to include the features of "objected to" (and now canceled) claim 9, whereby claim 7 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 9. Claims 13-15, 19-21 and 23-27 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 7, whereby those claims are also now in allowable form. Also, by way of this amendment and reply, presently pending claim 22 has been amended to include the features of its base claim 7, whereby presently pending claim 22 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action. Further, by way of this amendment and reply, presently pending independent claim 28 has been amended to include the features of "objected to" (and now canceled) claim 29, whereby presently pending claim 28 is now in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 29. Claims 30-34 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 28, whereby those claims are also now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – Indefiniteness:

In the Office Action, claims 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite, due to the use of the word “inherently” in those claims. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 19-21 (claim 18 has been canceled) have been amended to remove the offending word “inherently”, whereby presently pending claims 19-21 are believed to fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 7, 13, 18, 20, 28 and 30-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0133153 to Shinoda in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0164974 to Yoda. Due to the amendments made to presently pending independent claims 7 and 28 so that they now include the features of “objected to” claims, this rejection is now moot.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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